

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### **LCO LATIN KING GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Pedro Zamora, DOB 9/7/82, of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to thirty years in federal prison for his involvement with members of the Latin King Nation in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine at LCO. Zamora's sentence will be served without the possibility of parole.

In sentencing Zamora, Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb found that his conduct, along with his co-conspirators in the Latin King gang, involved well in excess of 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine. Chief Judge Crabb also increased Zamora's sentence because: (1) he and other conspirators possessed firearms during the conspiracy; and (2) he used LCO tribal members under 18 years of age to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine.

On December 12, 2005, following a one-week trial, a jury found Zamora guilty of the drug conspiracy and also guilty of operating a crack house on the LCO Reservation. The proof at trial established that a Latin King gang was operating at LCO in the late

1990s, known at the Lion Tribe Set. In late 1998 and early 1999, Milwaukee-area Latin Kings started traveling to the LCO Reservation to sell drugs. In early 2000, Zamora returned from Minneapolis to the LCO community to live and joined the Latin Kings. From that point through late 2002, he sold cocaine and crack cocaine for the Latin Kings; traveled to Milwaukee and Minneapolis to obtain drugs for the gang to sell; and operated two crack houses at LCO with his conspirators where drugs were sold to numerous customers.

Zamora is the 41st defendant sentenced as a result of this long-term investigation. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb stated that a 30-year sentence was necessary to protect the public since it would keep Zamora incapacitated well into his late 40s. One defendant--Florentino Castillo--is scheduled for sentencing on April 24 following his conviction in the jury trial in December 2005. One other defendant--Donald Fairbanks--is pending sentencing on May 9 following his guilty plea prior to the trial. Two remaining defendants--Frank Crone and Genoveva Gonzalez--were indicted in late March for failing to appear as witnesses at the December 2005 jury trial. The Crone trial is scheduled for July 24 and the Gonzalez trial is scheduled for July 31 before Chief Judge Crabb.

The long-term investigation of drug trafficking and gang activity at LCO was conducted by the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn.